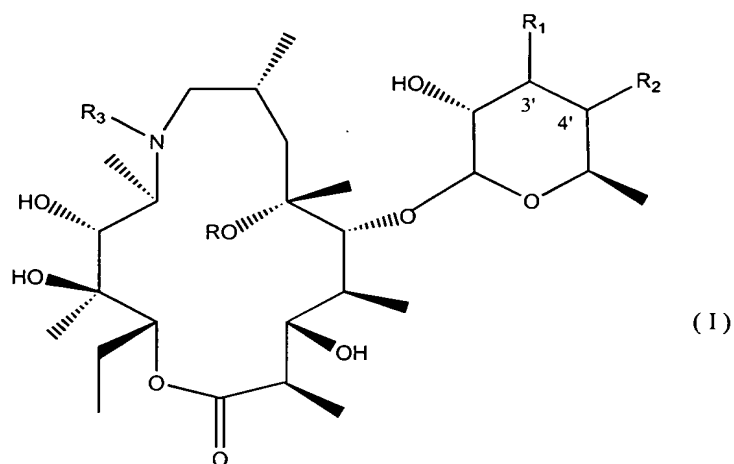


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound of formula



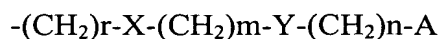
in which

R is a hydrogen atom or a methyl

R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an N,N-di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino group, an N,N-di-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino-N-oxide group, an N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-acyl-N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino group or together with R<sub>2</sub> forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4';

R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen atom or together with R<sub>1</sub> forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4';

R<sub>3</sub> is a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, a benzyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from nitro, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy groups, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy carbonyl groups, aminocarbonyl groups or cyano or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

X represents O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkoxy carbonyl group, a benzyloxy carbonyl group;

Y is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group, a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur or represents O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sub>6</sub> where R<sub>6</sub> has the meanings given above;

r is an integer of from 1 to 3;

m is an integer of from 1 to 6;

n is an integer of from 0 to 2;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form;

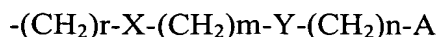
and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts;

provided that when R is a hydrogen atom and R<sub>1</sub> is a dimethylamino group, R<sub>3</sub> is different from a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>)-alkyl group.

Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 in which R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an N-methyl-N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino group, an N-methyl-N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino-N-oxide group, an N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-acyl-N-methylamino group or R<sub>1</sub> together with R<sub>2</sub> forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4'.

Claim 3 (Original): A compound according to claim 2 in which R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an N,N-dimethylamino group, an N,N-dimethylamino-N-oxide group, an N-acetyl-N-methylamino group or R<sub>1</sub> together with R<sub>2</sub> forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4'.

Claim 4 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 in which  $R_3$  is a linear or branched ( $C_1$ - $C_3$ ) alkyl, a benzyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from nitro, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, linear or branched ( $C_1$ - $C_3$ ) alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkoxy and cyano groups or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

X is O or  $NR_6$  and  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkyl;

Y, when n is 0, is a  $C_6H_4$  group or a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; or, when n is different from 0, it is O or  $NR_6$  and  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkyl;

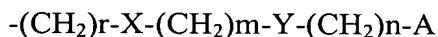
r is an integer of from 1 to 3;

m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

n is an integer of from 0 to 2;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which  $R_3$  is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 5 (Original): A compound according to claim 4 in which  $R_3$  is a methyl, a benzyl or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl with five or six members selected from pyrrole, thiophene, furan, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, pyridine, pyrimidine, triazole and thiadiazole;

X is O or  $NR_6$  and  $R_6$  is a hydrogen atom;

Y, when n is 0, is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or a heteroaryl with five or six members selected from pyrrole, thiophene, furan, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, pyridine, pyrimidine, triazole and thiadiazole; or, when n is 1, it is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

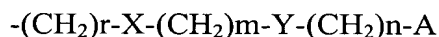
r is an integer of from 1 to 3;

m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 6 (Original): A compound according to claim 5 in which R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl, a benzyl or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl selected from thiophene, furan, imidazole, thiazole, pyridine and triazole;

X is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

Y, when n is 0, is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or a heteroaryl selected from thiophene, furan, imidazole, thiazole, pyridine and triazole; or, when n is 1, it is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

r is 3;

m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

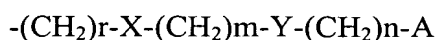
n is an integer selected from 0 and 1;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 7 (Original): A compound according to claim 1, in which R<sub>1</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an N-methyl-N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino group, an N-methyl-N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)-alkylamino-N-

oxide group, an N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)-acyl-N-methylamino group or R<sub>1</sub> together with R<sub>2</sub> forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4';

at the same time R<sub>3</sub> is a linear or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>) alkyl, a benzyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from nitro, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, linear or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>) alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy and cyano groups or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

X is O or NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl;

Y, when n is 0, is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or a heteroaryl with five or six members containing from one to three atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; or, when n is different from 0, it is O or NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl;

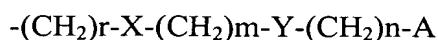
r is an integer of from 1 to 3;

m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

n is an integer of from 0 to 2;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 8 (Original): A compound according to claim 7 in which R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl, a benzyl or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl with five or six members selected from pyrrole, thiophene, furan, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, pyridine, pyrimidine, triazole and thiadiazole;

X is O or NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

Y, when n is 0, is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or a heteroaryl with five or six members selected from pyrrole, thiophene, furan, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, pyridine, pyrimidine, triazole and thiadiazole; or, when n is 1, it is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

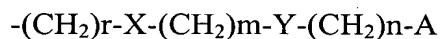
r is an integer of from 1 to 3;

m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 9 (Original): A compound according to claim 8 in which R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl, a benzyl or a chain of formula



in which

A is a hydrogen atom, a phenyl or a heteroaryl selected from thiophene, furan, imidazole, thiazole, pyridine and triazole;

X is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

Y, when n is 0, is a C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or a heteroaryl selected from thiophene, furan, imidazole, thiazole, pyridine and triazole; or, when n is 1, it is NR<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> is a hydrogen atom;

r is 3;

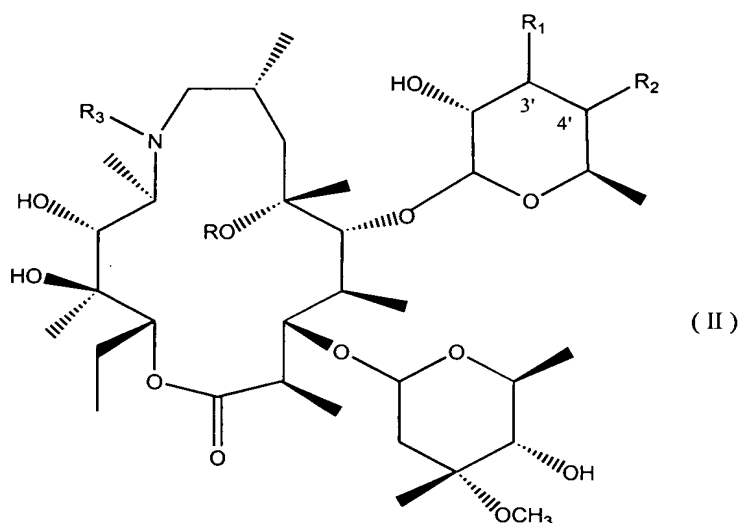
m is an integer selected from 1 and 2;

n is an integer selected from 0 and 1;

moreover the nitrogen atom to which R<sub>3</sub> is bound can be present in the N-oxide form.

Claim 10 (Original): A compound according to claim 9 in which  $R_1$  is a hydrogen atom, an N,N-dimethylamino group, an N,N-dimethylamino-N-oxide group, an N-acetyl-N-methylamino group or  $R_1$  together with  $R_2$  forms a bond between the carbon atoms at 3' and 4'.

Claim 11 (Original): A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 that comprises the removal of the L-cladinose at position 3, through a reaction of hydrolysis, from the azithromycin derivatives of formula



in which

$R$ ,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are defined as in claim 1.

Claim 12 (Original): A process according to claim 11 in which, in formula II, the substituent  $R_3$  is a methyl.

Claim 13 (Original): A process according to claim 11 in which the removal of cladinoses is effected through a reaction of catalyzed acid hydrolysis in the presence of an inorganic acid and a protic organic solvent.

Claim 14 (Original): A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective quantity of a compound according to claim 1 mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 15 (Original): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 that can be used for treating inflammatory pathologies.

Claim 16 (Canceled): A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 14 that can be used for treating respiratory pathologies.